

# Caring for those who care: The role of the occupational health nurse in disasters

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#### Abstract:

Since the events of 9/11, health care facilities have devoted substantial resources to emergency preparedness, especially for a surge of patients in a large-scale incident. Hurricane Katrina reinforced the need for such surge planning. Due to the SARS experience in Toronto, health care professionals have had increased awareness of their "duty-to-care" responsibility. These caregivers make the decision, even when they themselves may be at risk, to continue to care for patients. However, little has been done about planning to care for these caregivers. Health care professionals can be deeply affected physically, emotionally, and spiritually when caring for patients in a large-scale incident. Emergency preparedness professionals must consider the needs of health care providers because providers must care for a large number of patients with limited resources under stressful conditions. It is the obligation and responsibility of each health care organization to care for these caregivers. However, when assigning responsibility for this task, it becomes evident this responsibility belongs to employee health nurses, "employee advocates," and organizational leaders.

**Source:** Ask your librarian to help locate this item.

### **Resource Description**

#### Communication: M

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

## **Communication Audience: ☑**

audience to whom the resource is directed

Health Professional

#### Exposure: M

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

**Extreme Weather Event** 

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment: M

Extreme Weather Event: Flooding, Hurricanes/Cyclones, Landslides Geographic Feature: M resource focuses on specific type of geography None or Unspecified Geographic Location: M resource focuses on specific location Global or Unspecified Health Impact: M specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure Health Outcome Unspecified resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change A focus of content Mitigation/Adaptation: **№** mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource Adaptation Population of Concern: A focus of content Population of Concern: M populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts Workers Resource Type: **№** format or standard characteristic of resource Research Article, Review Resilience: M capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function A focus of content Timescale: M time period studied

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resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system A focus of content